

AN ACT

relating to the education of public school students with dyslexia, the education and training of educators who teach students with dyslexia, and the assessment of students with dyslexia attending an institution of higher education.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Section 21.044, Education Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 21.044. EDUCATOR PREPARATION. (a) The board shall propose rules establishing the training requirements a person must accomplish to obtain a certificate, enter an internship, or enter an induction-year program. The board shall specify the minimum academic qualifications required for a certificate.

(b) Any minimum academic qualifications for a certificate specified under Subsection (a) that require a person to possess a bachelor's degree must also require that the person receive, as part of the curriculum for that degree, instruction in detection and education of students with dyslexia. This subsection does not apply to a person who obtains a certificate through an alternative certification program adopted under Section 21.049.

(c) The instruction under Subsection (b) must:

(1) be developed by a panel of experts in the diagnosis and treatment of dyslexia who are:

(A) employed by institutions of higher

education; and

(B) approved by the board; and

(2) include information on:

(A) characteristics of dyslexia;

(B) identification of dyslexia; and

(C) effective, multisensory strategies for teaching students with dyslexia.

SECTION 2. Section 21.054, Education Code, is amended by adding Subsections (b) and (c) to read as follows:

(b) Continuing education requirements for an educator who teaches students with dyslexia must include training regarding new research and practices in educating students with dyslexia.

(c) The training required under Subsection (b) may be offered in an online course.

SECTION 3. Section 38.003, Education Code, is amended by adding Subsection (b-1) to read as follows:

(b-1) Unless otherwise provided by law, a student determined to have dyslexia during testing under Subsection (a) or accommodated because of dyslexia may not be retested for dyslexia for the purpose of reassessing the student's need for accommodations until the district reevaluates the information obtained from previous testing of the student.

SECTION 4. Subchapter A, Chapter 38, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 38.0031 to read as follows:

Sec. 38.0031. CLASSROOM TECHNOLOGY PLAN FOR STUDENTS WITH DYSLEXIA. (a) The agency shall establish a committee to develop a plan for integrating technology into the classroom to help

accommodate students with dyslexia. The plan must:

(1) determine the classroom technologies that are useful and practical in assisting public schools in accommodating students with dyslexia, considering budget constraints of school districts; and

(2) develop a strategy for providing those effective technologies to students.

(b) The agency shall provide the plan and information about the availability and benefits of the technologies identified under Subsection (a)(1) to school districts.

(c) A member of the committee established under Subsection (a) is not entitled to reimbursement for travel expenses incurred by the member under this section unless agency funds are available for that purpose.

SECTION 5. Subchapter Z, Chapter 51, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 51.9701 to read as follows:

Sec. 51.9701. ASSESSMENT FOR DYSLEXIA. Unless otherwise provided by law, an institution of higher education, as defined by Section 61.003, may not reassess a student determined to have dyslexia for the purpose of assessing the student's need for accommodations until the institution of higher education reevaluates the information obtained from previous assessments of the student.

SECTION 6. (a) Except as provided by Subsections (b) and (c) of this section, this Act applies beginning with the 2011-2012 school year.

(b) Subsection (b), Section 21.044, Education Code, as

1 added by this Act, applies beginning with persons who commence
2 enrollment in an institution of higher education during the
3 2011-2012 academic year.

4 (c) Section 51.9701, Education Code, as added by this Act,
5 applies beginning with the 2011-2012 academic year.

6 SECTION 7. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
7 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
8 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
9 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
10 Act takes effect September 1, 2011.

S.B. No. 866

David Dewhurst
President of the Senate

Joe Straus
Speaker of the House

I hereby certify that S.B. No. 866 passed the Senate on April 19, 2011, by the following vote: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

Letsy Law
Secretary of the Senate

I hereby certify that S.B. No. 866 passed the House on May 19, 2011, by the following vote: Yeas 148, Nays 0, one present not voting.

Robert Haney
Chief Clerk of the House

Approved:

17 JUN '11
Date

Rick Perry
Governor

FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE
SECRETARY OF STATE
4pm O'CLOCK

JUN 17 2011
Debra Rehder
Secretary of State